

Chances Are ... MRS Is the Right Place

Welcome to Michigan Rehabilitation Services, often just called MRS. If you, or someone you know, has a disability and wants to find a meaningful career, MRS is here to help. Each year, more than 7,000 Michigan citizens with disabilities are assisted into jobs through MRS services.

Who Should Go to MRS?

MRS works with people with a wide range of disabilities. Some examples are:

- Amputation ✱ Kidney disease
- Back disability ✱ Learning disability
- Brain injury ✱ Mental illness
- Cancer ✱ Mental limitation
- Cerebral palsy ✱ Multiple sclerosis
- Diabetes ✱ Muscular dystrophy
- Epilepsy ✱ Paraplegia
- Hearing loss ✱ Quadriplegia
- Heart disease ✱ Substance abuse

A person with a disability may be eligible for MRS services if the disability causes problems in preparing for, finding, or keeping a job. The individual must also *require* MRS services in order to work. Persons who are legally blind are served by the Michigan Commission for the Blind.

How Does MRS Work?

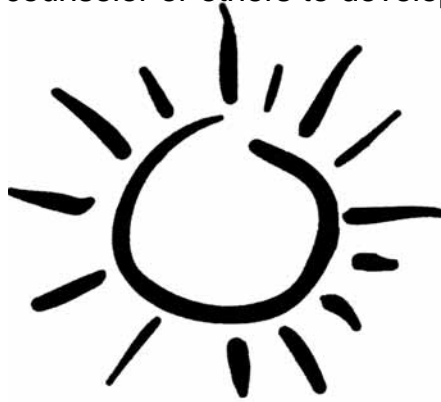
Each customer who comes to MRS for services is teamed up with a rehabilitation counselor. Once a person is found eligible, the customer and counselor follow these four steps:

1 Decide on an employment goal

The customer working with the counselor chooses a job goal that matches his or her aptitudes and interests. The counselor helps to obtain needed information so the customer can make the best job goal choices. Sometimes this requires gathering information from other people or programs, or getting assessments. Assessments may include, medical exams, aptitude testing, work evaluations, and job try-outs.

2 Develop a plan

The customer can choose to work with a counselor or others to develop a plan



for employment. The plan will clearly identify services that will be needed. It will also state who will provide the services and how to determine if they are beneficial. Some services will be provided directly by the counselor or other MRS staff. Other services may be purchased or provided by other agencies. The counselor must approve the plan.

3 Follow the plan

The customer completes activities and services outlined in his or her plan. The services are based on individual need. See some examples of services below. The plan is reviewed annually and can be changed as necessary.

- ✱ Job-seeking skills training
- ✱ Job placement assistance
- ✱ Accommodations/assistive technology
- ✱ Job coaches
- ✱ Tools, equipment, or licenses
- ✱ Job training
- ✱ Prostheses or other medical services
- ✱ Support services such as interpreters, readers, or transportation

4 Reach the goal

The counselor and other service providers work with the customer to reach the final goal—finding the right job. Once

the customer is on the job, MRS staff follow up for at least 90 days to make sure both the employer and new employee are satisfied. Sometimes additional services are needed. When this happens, MRS can begin working with the customer again to make sure he or she is able to stay on the job.



Who Pays for Services?

MRS provides the following services without charge:

- * Needed disability assessments
- * Vocational evaluations
- * Counseling
- * Job placement services
- * Job follow-up services

Other services are purchased from public and private agencies in the community. If financially able, customers are asked to help pay for part of these services. MRS assistance for job training services is based on individual financial need.

How Is a Referral to MRS Made?

Any person with a disability who is interested in receiving job rehabilitation services to become employed may call the nearest MRS office. Referrals also may be made by family members, hospitals, school counselors, mental health professionals, social workers, churches, and other community agencies.

For a listing of the MRS office locations across the state, call toll free 1-800-605-6722 (voice) or 1-888-605-6722 (TTY).

Mission:

MRS partners with individuals and employers to achieve quality employment outcome and independence for persons with disabilities.

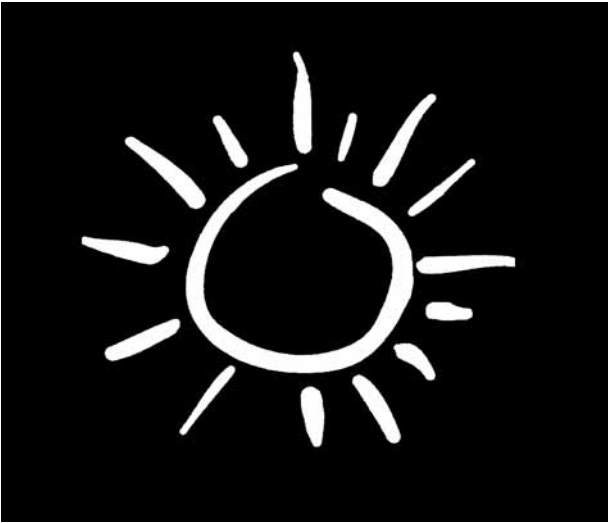


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Visit MRS on the Internet at:
www.michigan.gov/dleg
Click on Michigan Rehabilitation Services

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Meaningful Careers for People with Disabilities



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